

Vasquez Blvd. /I-70 (VB/I70)
Draft Communication Strategy
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan
Spring 2010

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Created by: Christopher Wardell, Office of Communication and Public Involvement,
USEPA, Region 8. 303-312-6062

Issue: The U.S. EPA issued a Remedial Investigation Report in January 2010. In addition, EPA will issue a Feasibility Study Report and Proposed Plan for clean up of the VB/I-70 site (OU2) in the spring/summer of 2010. These documents detail the environmental investigation and possible alternatives available to clean up OU2, which encompasses where the Denver Coliseum, Pepsi Bottling, and the Forney Transportation Museum stand today. This communication strategy details EPA's outreach plan associated with the publication of these documents.

Visibility: Medium

Controversy: Low

Primary Stakeholders: The community affected by the VB/I70 Superfund Site is located primarily along Brighton Blvd from 38th Avenue to I-70, and bounded by the South Platte River to the west. The properties and businesses on and around the site are predominately industrial or commercial, with recreational uses at Globeville Landing Park along the South Platte River. Stakeholders include business and land owners on and adjacent to OU2, the members of the Elyria Swansea Business Association, Denver City Council Women Judy Montero (District 9), and land developers.

Key Contacts:

Nicole Bein

Remedial Project Manager, 303-312-7075, bein.nicole@epa.gov

Sam Garcia

Remedial Project Manager, 303-312-6247 garcia.sam@epa.gov

Chris Wardell

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator and Public Affairs Specialist, 303-312-6601
wardell.christopher@epa.gov

Fonda Apostolopoulos

State Project Manager: Colorado Dpt. of Health and Environment, 303-692-3411
Fonda.Apostolopoulos@state.co.us

Warren Smith

State Community Involvement Coordinator: Colorado Dpt. of Health and Environment,
303-692-3373, warren.smith@state.co.us

Lisa Farrell

Environmental Chemist City and County of Denver Department of Env. Health/ Division
of Env. Quality, 720-865-5439, Lisa.Farrell@denvergov.org

Potential Community Concerns:

EPA anticipates that much of the community concern surrounding this cleanup will revolve around three issues: future redevelopment of the site into a residential area, site liability issues, and how the future proposed remedy will affect businesses operating on and adjacent to OU2.

Main Messages:

- EPA will continue to take future use into account at OU2
- EPA will work with business to determine the most appropriate cleanup that will have the least amount of impact on businesses on or adjacent to OU2, while cleaning up OU2 to the standards set by the Record of Decision (ROD).
- EPA will work with the National Western Stock Show and the City and County of Denver (CCoD) when planning remedial action to ensure that the Stock Show will not be affected.
- At this time, EPA and the CCoD plan to clean the site up to industrial/commercial standards.

Potential Questions to Consider:**1. When will a cleanup remedy be decided on?**

EPA and CCoD are still working on the Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan detailing the proposed cleanup option and other alternatives, as well as an ROD which is planned for late 2010.

2. How long will the cleanup take?

At this time it is unknown. The final ROD will outline the timeframe for the cleanup.

3. Who will pay for the selected cleanup?

EPA and CCoD are paying for the initial study costs. EPA is pursuing all avenues to recoup costs from liable parties. EPA's position is that CCoD is only responsible for response action on property presently owned by CCoD. Under *Superfund* any property owner can be a potentially responsible party for cleanup of their property.

4. What about redeveloping the site into a residential area?

At this time EPA will clean up the site to what it deems “reasonably anticipated future uses” of the site. At OU2 this is deemed as industrial/commercial standards.

5. What are the contaminants of concern?

Based on the results of the draft risk assessment and a review of existing data, surface and subsurface soil were identified as the potential media of concern. Due to the limited occurrences of trace metals in groundwater and the lack of use of groundwater for domestic supply, groundwater was not found to be a media of concern. Arsenic and lead were identified as the potential chemicals of concern.

6. Who is at risk at the site?

Currently, people who work on the site are at risk of being exposed to site contaminants. However, exposure to the contaminants to workers is largely prevented by the high degree of buildings and pavement cover at OU2.

Background:

The VB/I-70 Site is an area of approximately four square miles located in north-central Denver. Historically, this area was a major smelting center for the Rocky Mountain West. Three smelting plants: Omaha-Grant, Argo, and Globe operated in the area for varying lengths of time, beginning as early as 1870, refining gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. On July 22, 1999, the VB/I-70 site was listed on the EPA Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).

Operable Unit 2 (OU2) of the VB/I-70 Site is where the Omaha-Grant Smelter was located. EPA is concerned that wastes generated from the historic smelter operation may still exist. In January 2010, EPA and the City and County of Denver (Denver) completed a Remedial Investigation (RI) of OU2. The RI describes the type of contaminants found at the Site and identifies where they are located.

A Baseline Human Health and Screening Level of Ecological Risk Assessment (BRA) for VB/I-70 OU2 was completed by EPA in August 2009. Based on the results of the risk assessment and a review of existing data, surface and subsurface soil were identified as the potential media of concern. Due to the limited occurrences of trace metals in groundwater and the lack of use of groundwater for domestic supply, groundwater was not found to be a media of concern. Arsenic and lead were identified as the potential chemicals of concern.

The occurrences of arsenic and lead at concentrations greater than background levels are localized and discontinuous. Sample results did not show broad areas of contamination but only isolated areas containing concentrations of arsenic and lead above background levels. Due to the presence of buildings and pavement that reduce erosion, windblown dust, and storm water runoff containing contaminants; significant transport and migration

of arsenic and lead from the soil is not expected to occur.

EPA expects to issue a final Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan sometime in the spring/summer 2010. The Feasibility Study analyzes various remedial alternatives that could be used to clean up OU2. The Proposed Plan will compare the various cleanup alternatives described in detail in the Feasibility Study and select one of those alternatives as the Preferred Alternative. The public will be notified of the availability of the Proposed Plan and will be offered opportunities to comment. A final decision will follow in a Record of Decision with an attached response to public comments received on the Proposed Plan. There are many outreach activities, both required and not required in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) regulations that EPA is planning to conduct in order to fully achieve early and meaningful public involvement in this process.

Planned Activities/Timeline

What	Who	Notes	When
Remedial Investigation (RI)			
Draft RI Fact Sheet, send for team concurrence and finalize	Chris/Team		Done
Copies of final RI Report and fact sheet to Admin. Record at EPA and Information Repository at Valdez-Perry Library.	Sam/Nicole-AR Chris-Info. Repo.		Done
Upload RI Fact sheet and RI documents on Website	Chris/Tim Davis		Done
Send email or mail update fact sheet to all stakeholders	Chris		Done
Brief Councilwoman Montero (Dist. 9) and Elyria Swansea Business Association	Chris/Sam/Lisa		Done

Feasibility Study (FS)/Proposed Plan			
Draft Proposed Plan	Chris/Sam/Nicole		Spring/Summer 2010
Send Proposed Plan out for agency review	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Draft Public Notice for Proposed Plan	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Send Public Notice for Agency Review	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Draft News Advisory announcing Proposed Plan and public comment period	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Make arrangements for Proposed Plan public meeting	Chris	Where and when	Spring/Summer 2010
Comments due back to Chris on Proposed Plan and Finalize.	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Have Proposed Plan copied and labels readied for mailing	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Place copies of Proposed Plan and final FS in AR/IR	Sam/Nicole AR Chris IR		Spring/Summer 2010
Upload FS and Proposed Plan and comment period on EPA website	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Publish Proposed Plan public notice in newspapers	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Send mail and email update with Proposed Plan to Stakeholders	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Issue News Advisory	Chris		Spring/Summer 2010
Meet with stakeholder groups	Sam/Nicole/Chris Team		Spring/Summer 2010

as necessary regarding details of proposed plan			
Finalize Public Meeting Details	Chris	Chairs, tables, equipment, sign in sheets, meeting evaluations, meeting presentation, display ad, maps and meeting materials, transcriber, press	Spring/Summer 2010
Hold Propose Plan Public Meeting	Chris	Sam/Nicole/Chris	Spring/Summer 2010?